

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA
[Hearing Held in Anderson, SC]

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HEARING #10794**JULY 18, 2006****6:30 P.M.**

DOCKET NO. 2006-107-WS: UNITED UTILITY COMPANIES, INCORPORATED — Application for Adjustment of Rates and Charges and Modification of Certain Terms and Conditions for the Provision of Water and Sewer Service.

HEARING BEFORE: G. O'Neal HAMILTON, CHAIRMAN, C. Robert MOSELEY, VICE CHAIRMAN; and COMMISSIONERS John E. "Butch" HOWARD, David A. WRIGHT, Randy MITCHELL, Elizabeth B. "Lib" FLEMING, and Mignon L. CLYBURN.

ADVISOR TO COMMISSION: Joseph M. Melchers, Esq.

STAFF: Charles L.A. Terreni, Chief Clerk/Administrator; and Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esq., Deputy Clerk; James B. Spearman, PhD., Executive Assistant to Commissioners; Philip Riley, Advisory Staff; MaryJane Cooper, Court Reporter, and Patty Sands, Administrative Coordinator.

APPEARANCES: John M.S. Hoefer, Esq., and Benjamin Mustian, Esq., representing UNITED UTILITY COMPANIES, INCORPORATED, **APPLICANT.**

Shannon Bowyer Hudson, Esq., representing **THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF.**

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TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS
VOLUME 2

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: We're going to call this meeting to order. Mr. Melchers, if you would like to read the docket.

JOSEPH M. MELCHERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. This hearing of the South Carolina Public Service Commission will come to order. This hearing is being held in Docket No. 2006-107-WS regarding the Application of United Utility Companies, Inc. for Adjustment in rates and charges and modifications to certain terms and conditions for the provision of water and sewer service. It's being held here at the Anderson County Library, 300 North McDuffie Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29621.

Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Ladies and Gentlemen, we would like to welcome each and every one of you to our hearing tonight, meeting with the Commissioners. We assure you that the information that you give to us tonight will be part of the record. Mr. Melchers in a few minutes, the attorney, will give you the rules and regulations that we will follow this evening.

But, first I'd like to introduce to you my fellow Commissioners. On my left is Commissioner Butch Howard; next to him is Commissioner David Wright, his immediate left is Vice President Bob Moseley; on the far end is Com-

1 missioner Lib Fleming, and Commissioner Clyburn, and
2 Commissioner Randy Mitchell. Of course, this is Joseph
3 Melchers [*signifying Mr. Melchers, Chief Counsel*], and
4 I'm O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman of the Commission.

5 Mr. Melchers, if you would give them the rules and
6 procedures.

7 MR. MELCHERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 Tonight you've got two state organizations here. You've
9 got the Public Service Commission, the Public Service
10 Commission Staff is here as well; Jocelyn Boyd, our
11 Deputy Clerk. As well, you have the Office of Regulatory
12 Staff. I would ask them to stand up or raise their hands.
13 As well, you have United Utility's attorneys here this evening,
14 and I believe several members of your client's organization
15 are here as well.

16 This is the hearing for Docket No. 2006-107-WS to
17 be held here in the evening in Anderson. In just a minute
18 I'll be calling the names of those who signed up to come
19 forward and give their statement to the Commission
20 regarding the rate increase proposed by the Company.

21 First, I need to go over some ground rules with you.
22 Everything you have to say tonight from the podium will
23 be put into the record of the case by our Court Reporter,
24 MaryJane Cooper, who's over here. Wave, Mary Jane.
25 You'll be sworn in prior to giving your statement. Please

1 state your name and your address after being sworn in.
2 Please speak into the microphone. Also, if you have any
3 cellphones on, if you'll turn them off for us.

4 You may be asked questions by the Commissioners,
5 and you may be asked questions by United Utility's attorneys.
6 Please remain at the podium for just a moment after you
7 finish giving your statement so that the Commissioners,
8 or the company lawyers can ask any questions they might
9 have.

10 You cannot speak at tonight's hearing if you have
11 filed in this case as an Intervenor rather than as a public
12 witness. Intervenors can produce witnesses at the day
13 hearing in Columbia and have to file what's called prefiled
14 testimony. But, if you're an Intervenor, you probably know
15 it.

16 If you speak as a public witness tonight, you will not
17 be permitted to speak at the other public meetings in the
18 evening or at the merits hearing. If anyone prior to you
19 coming up to the podium says pretty much what you want
20 to say, you're welcome to adopt their testimony as your own
21 and not have to repeat it, but you're welcome to, because
22 we are here tonight to hear what you have to say. In fact,
23 tonight's focus is on you. This hearing is not a time to ask
24 the Commissioners questions, but it's the time for you to
25 be heard on the subject of the proposed rate increase.

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Also, your time to address the Commissioners is during the hearing itself. In other words, rather than approaching the Commissioners with statements after the hearing, please place your comments on the record at the podium so that the Court Reporter has the opportunity to record what you have to say to all the parties. After the hearing, you're welcome to speak with the Office of Regulatory Staff or the company's representatives with any questions that you may have.

Mr. Riley, if you could bring the list of witnesses.

[List is handed up]

The first witness that I have listed is Dewey Pearson. If you'd please approach the podium to be sworn in.

JOHN M.S. HOEFER: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Yes, sir.

MR. HOEFER: I have a matter to raise before the first witness is sworn and speaks. It's the same Motion that was made at the night hearing last night.

The Applicant would like to state its objection to testimony consisting of unsubstantiated complaints regarding customer service, quality of service or customer relations issues. The basis for this objection is that the receipt and reliance upon such testimony would deny due process of law, permit complaint procedures established under law and Commission regulations for the determination

1 of such matters to be circumvented, and is an inappropriate
2 basis for determination of just and reasonable rates.

3 In support of this objection, the Applicant cites
4 *Patton v. PSC*, 312 S.E. 2nd 257, Order of the Court of
5 Commons Pleas, *Tega Cay Water Service v. PSC*, Civil
6 Action No. 97-CP-40-0923, and the Commission's Order
7 No. 1999-191, Docket No. 96-137-WS.

8 The Applicant requests that this objection be deemed
9 a continuing objection such that there would not be a need
10 for repeated objections each time a customer testifies to
11 matters of this nature. We cite in support of that request
12 *State v. Douglas*, reported at 626 S.E. 2nd 59. Applicant
13 would request that the objection apply to documents or any
14 testimony elicited under examination, and that the Chair
15 reserve ruling until a final order in this matter.

16 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Thank you, sir. ORS?

17 MS. HUDSON: Mr. Chairman, ORS would like to
18 respond to the company.

19 For those I have not had the pleasure of meeting,
20 my name is Shannon Hudson, and I'm an attorney with the
21 South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff.

22 As to the company's remarks, we do not oppose
23 the continuing objection process, but what we would say
24 is that testimony does not need to be substantiated or
25 corroborated in any other way aside from the customer's

1 testimony at tonight's hearing. Having said that, we believe
2 that customer testimony tonight is admissible. We would
3 also say that the citations put forth by the company, the
4 legal citations, we believe those legal citations do not
5 fully support the company's objections. Keeping that in
6 mind, we would ask to reserve our right to respond to the
7 company's objection.

8 We would also ask that within a reasonable time
9 after tonight's hearing and after the transcript has been
10 completed, that the company put in writing specifying
11 each portion of tonight's testimony that it objects to and
12 put that forth for the Commission to post on its website, if
13 it pleases the Commission. That way the people who have
14 come here and taken time out of their evening can go to
15 the Commission website and see if any portions of their
16 testimony has been objected to. We are hopeful that the
17 Company would agree to this process.

18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Thank you, Ms. Hudson.

20 MR. HOEFER: The company would agree, Mr.
21 Chairman.

22 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Thank you, Mr. Hoefer.
23 That objection is duly noted and will be ruled on in the
24 final order.

25 So, if you would call the first witness, please.

1 MR. MELCHERS: Mr. Pearson.

2 **WHEREUPON, Dewey H. Pearson**, first being
3 duly sworn, assumes the stand and testifies as follows:

4 MS. BOYD: Would you state your name and address
5 for the record, please?

6 **TESTIMONY OF DEWEY H. PEARSON:**

7 A My name is Dewey Pearson. I live at 226 Providence Point in Anderson, South
8 Carolina. I'm here tonight, if it's permissible, to speak for Larry Greer. Mr. Greer
9 is the County Council Chairman of Anderson County, and they had a Council
10 meeting scheduled for 6:00 o'clock this evening, and he could not be here. I
11 do work for the county at times, and he had asked me to come and read his
12 testimony for the record.

13 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Do we have any
14 objections?

15 MR. HOEFER: No objection.

16 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: No objections, go
17 forward.

18 A [Mr. Pearson] This is the letter that I think Mr. Greer had sent to Mr. Mitchell.
19 It says,

20 My name is Larry Greer. I am the County Councilman serving
21 County Council District 3 containing Chambert Forest. I am
22 writing you concerning the proposed increase in sewer charges
23 by United Utility Companies, Inc. This company provides sewer
24 service to the Chambert Forest community in Anderson County.
25 This is a mobilehome community consisting primarily of low-
26 income households, many of which are elderly and on Social
27 Security.

28
29 I am enclosing copies of the notice that was sent to the
30 residents.

1
2 I assume that it was in the letter that he sent to you.

3
4 You will notice that the company proposes to increase the
5 sewer charges for mobilehomes from \$35.58 per unit to \$48.47
6 per unit. This is an increase of \$12.89 per month, which is a
7 36% increase in sewer charges for the residents. As I stated
8 previously, these are low-income individuals, many of which are
9 on Social Security. These people will have extreme difficulty in
10 absorbing this increased cost.

11
12 As the Councilman representing the Chambert Forest
13 community, I urge the Public Service Commission to not grant
14 this increase requested. Those affected and myself would
15 prefer no increase at all; however, if a rate increase is granted,
16 please consider a much smaller percentage increase.

17
18 Thank you in advance for any help you can give in this matter,
19 and if I can be of any further assistance, please call.
20

21 That's his statement, and if I may, I would like to just make one point. I'm
22 not sure exactly what the average water usage is per unit in Chambert Forest,
23 but I did see one person's water bill, and they'd used 5,000 gallons for two
24 months, which equates to 2,500 gallons per month, and if this rate increase goes
25 through, that would be a charge of \$14.23 per 1,000 gallons for the treatment.
26 I mean, I'm sorry, that is if the rate remains the same. If the rate increase goes
27 through, it would be \$19.38 per 1,000 gallons of treatment, which most of the
28 sewer charges in Anderson County are in the \$5.00-\$5.25 per 1,000 gallons range.

29 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Thank you, sir. Does
30 anyone have any questions?

31 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: I do have one just
32 as a clarification.

33 **EXAMINATION BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:**

34 Q I believe Mr. Greer is the Chairman of the County Council; is that correct?

35 A Yes, sir.

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1 Q I just wanted to get that on record.

2 A I thought I did, sir. [INAUDIBLE]

3 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Excuse me, sir. I think
4 that letter is part of the record and distributed already.

5 A Okay.

6 [Short Pause]

7 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: A copy of the letter is in
8 the docket. Thank you, sir.

9 Do you have any questions, Mr. Hoefer?

10 MR. HOEFER: Just a couple questions.

11 **CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. HOEFER:**

12 Q Mr. Pearson, what's the date of that letter?

13 A The date of this letter — May 23, 2006.

14 Q What do you do for Anderson County?

15 A I do consultant work for them.

16 Q What kind of consulting work?

17 A Civil engineering work.

18 Q Okay. Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Thank you, sir.

21 MR. MELCHERS: The next witness listed is Shelton
22 Hicks.

23 MR. HICKS: Not at this time.

24 MR. MELCHERS: Okay, thank you, Mr. Hicks. The
25 next witness listed is Charles Parker Jr.

WHEREUPON, Charles D. Parker Jr., first being

duly sworn, assumes the stand and testifies as follows:

MS. BOYD: Would you state your name and address
for the record, please?

TESTIMONY OF CHARLES D. PARKER, JR.:

A Charles D. Parker Jr., 113 Richfield Drive, Anderson, South Carolina.

Mine is more — mine are comments, they're more just comments as
opposed to complaints and concerns. I receive water from Utility Services of
South Carolina. I moved into my home about a year ago, so I'm a brand new
homeowner. I understand the rate increase and concern for needing additional
income. Our concern is more with the flow rate that we get and the pressure
that we get from the service.

Utility Services obtains water from West Anderson by our subdivision;
it's Hidden Lakes II subdivision. When we moved in, we had fairly adequate
water pressure, but over the winter — we moved in July last year — over the
winter we started having pressure fluctuation problems to the point that it was
lifting the leak valve on my hot water heater. I called the company. They sent
a service guy out that hooked up a pressure recorder to the house and for two
days they recorded the pressure. It fluctuated between 20lbs. to 100lbs. pressure.

MR. HOEFER: Mr. Chairman, I hesitated to interrupt
a witness, but I understood the gentleman say he's a
customer of Utility Services of South Carolina, and that's
not the company in this docket. I just wanted to clarify that
he may be talking about a different company.

MR. PARKER: Okay. So, Utility Services is not —

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MR. HOEFER: United Utility, no, sir.

MR. PARKER: It's not the same company?

MR. HOEFER: No, sir.

MR. PARKER: Okay. Well, then I guess that's my mistake because I assumed that it was one corporation that provided service to all of Anderson. So, you are a different company?

MR. HOEFER: Mr. Chairman, I would represent to the Commission this case only involves United Utility Companies. It does not involve any rate increase or change to the rate schedule of Utility Services of South Carolina.

CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Did you receive a notice with your bill to attend the hearing?

MR. PARKER: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: You did not?

MR. PARKER: No, sir. I just saw the notice in the paper, and I guess, assumed with the name of the company that it was a related company because they provide service to our subdivision, but, you know, if you don't provide service to the subdivision, then it's a different company.

MR. HOEFER: Would you mind stating again the name of your subdivision?

MR. PARKER: Hidden Lakes II. Sorry, I took up your time.

1 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: That's all right. Thank
2 you, sir.

3 MR. MELCHERS: The next witness is Annette
4 Simmons.

5 **WHEREUPON, Annette Simmons**, first being duly
6 sworn, assumes the stand and testifies as follows:

7 MS. BOYD: If you would, please state your name
8 and address for the record?

9 **TESTIMONY OF ANNETTE SIMMONS:**

10 A My name is Annette Simmons. I live at 110 Glenna Drive, Anderson, South
11 Carolina.

12 I have a copy here of my water bill for two months. We get our water
13 from Star Iva Water Company, not our sewer. This is for my water bill, \$21.65
14 every other month is the minimum charge. Now, we're paying \$35.58 for sewer
15 every month. Now, you do the math and figure this. This is way over-priced.
16 We're paying way too much, way too much.

17 I don't understand how the sewer company can charge us more for water
18 that we're not using. You're looking at a trailerpark, a mobilehome park. Every-
19 body down there practically are poor people, set incomes, handicapped people,
20 welfare. People can't afford, we can't afford \$35.58, let alone almost \$50.
21 There is no way that my sewer bill should be more than my phone bill or more
22 than my water bill a month, and at times, more than my power bill. Now, there's
23 something wrong with this situation, and I think everybody here that lives in
24 Chambert Forest, and I'm speaking for all of us, knows that we've got a big
25 problem here. We're not going to be able to pay this rate hike. It's just – we're

1 not going to be able to do it. We're barely making it as it is. Let alone the fact
2 that the sewer company has — they've got an open sewer down there, you
3 know, that's a health hazard.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Yes, ma'am. Just a
6 second, to see if anyone has any questions. Mr. Mitchell.

7 **EXAMINATION BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:**

8 Q Yes, ma'am. I have a couple of questions. How many people live in your home?

9 A One.

10 Q One person, and is that a minimum fee that you pay each month, the \$35?

11 A Plus.

12 Q Whatever, but it's about a minimum of \$35 plus. I think you gave us \$35.58.

13 A You mean on water — \$35.58 is the sewer.

14 Q It's that much every month?

15 A Every month.

16 Q And, you're a single person?

17 A And I'm a single person. My water bill is \$21.65 every other month.

18 Q What kind of service do you get? Have you had any problems with the sewage
19 system at all?

20 A No, sir. I haven't myself.

21 Q You mentioned about an open sewer; is that close to your residence?

22 A Yes, it is, down at the end of our street.

23 Q How close?

24 A It's down at the end of our street.

25 Q And what problems do you have with it?

1 A I have a problem with it being open. I think it's a health hazard.

2 **EXAMINATION BY CHAIRMAN HAMILTON:**

3 Q Is it a lagoon?

4 A It's a tank, an open tank.

5 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: We could probably
6 get a response to that —

7 Q [*Commissioner Mitchell resumes*] Do you have an odor problem?

8 A At times, yes, sir.

9 Q How long have you lived in your residence?

10 A Since '92.

11 Q It's always been a continuing problem?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: That's all I have.

15 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Do we have any other
16 Commissioner questions?

17 [*No Response*]

18 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Thank you, ma'am.

19 MR. MELCHERS: The next witness is Dean Parker.

20 MR. PARKER: I believe this lady and Mr. Pearson
21 have basically said everything that I wanted to say.

22 MR. MELCHERS: Okay, thank you, Mr. Parker.

23 He's adopting the testimony.

24 John Parker.

25 MR. PARKER: They've said everything I wanted to

1 say also. I appreciate it.

2 MR. MELCHERS: Okay, thank you, Mr. Parker.

3 James Vickery.

4 **WHEREUPON, James Vickery**, first being duly

5 sworn, assumes the stand and testifies as follows:

6 MS. BOYD: Would you state your name and address

7 for the record, please?

8 **TESTIMONY OF JAMES VICKERY:**

9 A James Vickery, 102 Glenna Drive, Chambert Forest.

10 I have got a couple of questions. I know you said we couldn't ask any questions
11 here.

12 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: We have ORS that can
13 answer after the meeting or the company will be happy to
14 meet with you after the meeting with any questions.

15 A [Mr. Vickery] Thank you, sir. I want to know how come they can raise their rates
16 and DHEC sometimes goes along with this. And then DHEC comes in and
17 says, look we can't have the option of a septic tank, and they've got a tank
18 that's bigger than this whole room, that's open, and smells, nasty, filthy.

19 They've also got sewer lines coming across our property; other people's
20 sewage, not mine. They've got more than just my lines on — they've got my
21 neighbors' lines coming across my property, and I have a friend up there, Mr.
22 Jones. Stan Shaw had cut his sewer off completely, and checked because
23 his sewer line went across Mr. Shaw's land. Mr. Jones had to pay \$3600 to
24 keep that line going across his land. Is that the reason they're telling us they
25 don't want us digging out there —because they've got sewage lines up under

1 our property? If this keeps up, the raising the rates, all I can say is, I'm going
2 to put in a septic tank. When is it enough? What's enough?

3 That's all I've got to say.

4 MR. MELCHERS: Thank you, sir. Can you hold on
5 just a moment?

6 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Any questions,
7 Commissioners? Commissioner Mitchell.

8 **EXAMINATION BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:**

9 Q Yes, sir. You mentioned sewage lines going across your property; is that sewage
10 lines to what company?

11 A To United Utility.

12 Q In your front yard?

13 A It comes across my back yard. Then it feeds across my neighbor's yard to the
14 street.

15 Q Right. Are those lines covered up properly?

16 A Well, some of the sewer lines come right across the top of the main water line,
17 and the main water line is on my property.

18 Q How long have those lines been there, a long time?

19 A As long as I've been there, and I've been there for about 12 years.

20 Q Were the water lines there first?

21 A The water lines were there first. The sewage lines come across the top of it.

22 Q Have you had any particular problem with the actual sewage itself? You live
23 in a mobilehome or do you live —

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q Have you had any problems with the sewage lines as far as your particular

1 residence?

2 A I haven't had a problem on my sewage lines, but the people behind have.

3 They've had sewage problems four and five times a year; they have to come
4 out and unstop IT [INAUDIBLE] they'll pay a good fee to have that done, which
5 should be United Utility should be coming out there and cleaning those lines.

6 Q Where are the problems generally — between the residence and where their
7 lines go, or on the other side?

8 A Well, there's will get stopped up on my property and then it gets stopped up on
9 my neighbor's property also.

10 Q They have to dig up your yard?

11 A Yes, yes, sir.

12 Q That's all.

13 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Commissioner Clyburn.

15 **EXAMINATION BY COMMISSIONER CLYBURN:**

16 Q Basically you answered it, but as to — you said you've been there 12 years.
17 You made mention that — do you live closer to the open tank that you
18 mentioned — I was wondering because you appear to live on the same street
19 as Ms. Simmons.

20 A Yes, I'm right up above her.

21 Q Oh, so you're above, so you're further away from the tank?

22 A Yes, I'm just —

23 Q I was going to ask you about if you detected an aroma?

24 A Oh, yeah, you can detect an aroma.

25 Q How often?

1 A [inaudible] when it rains, it gets real bad. It does have a lot to do with the rain,
2 but again, it does need to be covered up. If a child would get in there, that
3 would be a mess.

4 Q What kind of height we're talking, I mean, when you said a child getting in
5 there. There's a – I guess there's ladder-type – there's some type of way to
6 climb up?

7 A They've got a fence around, but you know, if any child, 4-year old, 5-year old,
8 can go up and get in there.

9 Q Okay, thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Commissioner Howard.

11 **EXAMINATION BY COMMISSIONER HOWARD:**

12 Q Mr. Vickery, about how far within your property line is does that sewer line go,
13 just a rough approximation, about how many feet?

14 A I would say about 1,000 feet.

15 Q 1,000 feet [inaudible] your property line?

16 A Uh-uh.

17 Q Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Commissioner Mitchell.

19 **RE-EXAMINATION BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:**

20 Q Yes, sir, just one other brief question. You did mention other names that had
21 sewage problems. Could you supply those names?

22 A Mr. Jones.

23 Q Do you know any full names?

24 A [inaudible] Jones is her name.

25 Q That would be –

1 A [inaudible] Jones.

2 Q That's an account that would be listed —

3 A Yes, it would be in [inaudible] Jones.

4 Q Any other names that you are aware of that have had backup problems?

5 A You might want to try Ms. [inaudible], which I don't know her first name.

6 Q Do you know an address?

7 A It's [inaudible], and her address would be on Mountain Creek Church Road.

8 Q Were these recent problems or problems that —

9 A [inaudible] every once in a while we'll have problems out there. [inaudible] this
10 is the beginning of their problems when they want more money for something
11 that they've done charged for. They're supposed to fix [inaudible] a long time
12 ago. There are a lot of empty trailers, and there are a lot of burnt trailers; they
13 may be trying to [inaudible] these other people's stuff onto us. If they go up,
14 the park's probably going to clear out pretty much all together. If we can't put
15 a septic tank in there, we might as well sell, you know, and I don't think that's
16 right to us, especially after I've done added on to my home. I've got two
17 daughters, and they're going to have to have a good facility, you know, to use
18 the bathroom, and I'm going to provide that for them but not this way. If they
19 want to raise it up, you know, I mean, we can't stop it — then maybe we can.

20 Q Approximately how many residents are in your area that are own this system?

21 A I don't have no idea. At this time, there's been so many of them burned down
22 out there, and we have a lot of other problems, you know, with drugs and stuff
23 out there.

24 Q Thank you, sir.

25 **EXAMINATION BY CHAIRMAN HAMILTON:**

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1 Q Could you give me a little more information so I can understand the fee that
2 Mr. Jones had to pay when he capped off his sewer line?

3 A He thought he just, you know, maybe had a tree root or something grow
4 through there and stopped it off. [inaudible] and they worked on it for two or
5 three days. They still didn't know what was happening. Finally, Mr. Shaw
6 walked up there and told him that he had capped that line off because it was
7 coming across his property. He did charge Mr. Jones \$3600 to leave that line
8 open, and United Utility they came out; they knew about this. They knew
9 about what this transaction when it went on.

10 Q So, Mr. Jones had to buy an easement for the sewer line that went across his
11 property?

12 A Yes [inaudible] something's that already been paid for. He paid \$3600
13 [inaudible].

14 Q Thank you, sir.

15 A And I'll be willing to put my hand on the Bible on that too.

16 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Any other questions, Mr.
17 Hoefer?

18 MR. HOEFER: No, Mr. Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: ORS, any questions?

20 MS. HUDSON: [inaudible]

21 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Thank you, sir.

22 MR. VICKERY: Thank you for your time.

23 MR. MELCHERS: Is there anyone else who wants
24 to testify tonight?

25 [No Response]

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CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: If you're here and were

not able to sign up, we'll gladly hear from you at this time
before we close the hearing.

We appreciate those that did come forward and
give the information that you have, and it is recorded as
part of the record. Mr. Melchers will tell you when the
merits hearing will happen in Columbia, the date and
time.

MR. MELCHERS: Yes, sir. The continuation of the
hearing for this case will be held starting on Monday,
August 28th at 10:30 at the office of the Public Service
Commission located at 101 Executive Center Drive,
Columbia, 29211. Directions to that location can be found
at the Public Service Commission's website at
www.psc.sc.gov. I'll repeat that; that's psc.sc.gov.

Thank y'all very much for coming tonight.

CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: If any of you have
questions that you would like to ask, I wanted to tell you
again that ORS is here and their responsibility is to serve
the public interest. So, any questions that you might want
to direct to them, they'll be happy to talk to you, and the
Company's attorneys are here, and they'll be happy to
talk to you about any concerns you have.

We thank each of you for taking time out of your
life to come.

1 Just a minute, we have one other –

2 MR. MELCHERS: Commissioner Fleming has
3 pointed out that the library has double access terminals,
4 if you need computer access to look at the Public Service
5 Commission's website. Thank y'all.

6 CHAIRMAN HAMILTON: Thank you very much.
7 The hearing is closed.

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11 [*WHEREUPON, at approximately 7:20 P.M., on July 18,*
12 *2006, the Hearing was adjourned.*]

13 MaryJane Cooper, *Certified Court Reporter*
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17 ☎ (803) 896-5108
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